

## Veterans Treatment Track

- Enrollment is voluntary and, once admitted, program compliance is court-ordered.
- Participants must have a record of service in the United States Military and have a mental health challenge and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder that contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Public safety is a high priority. Participants are carefully screened prior to admission and monitored and drug tested during the program.
- Participants are assigned a mentor, a Veteran who volunteers to assist and support participants.
- Early intervention is essential, with prompt referral & screening.
- The Court staff works with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other Veterans groups to provide supervision and case management to participants.

State Administration & Veterans' Affairs  
April 19, 2016  
Exhibit 19

## Why Participate?

Participants in the Veterans Treatment Track of the Missoula Co-Occurring Treatment Court generally remain in the community for treatment rather than leaving the community or obtaining treatment in a more restrictive placement. If successful, participants may receive a lesser criminal sentence or may not be sentenced to any jail or prison time.

If needed, participants receive help getting services such as housing, job training and medical care.

For more details about potential benefits of participation, contact the Court Coordinator or your attorney.

The Veterans Treatment Track strives to improve public safety by addressing the Veteran's need for treatment while holding the Veteran accountable for his or her actions.

Court staff is committed to assisting Veteran participants in their efforts to be productive healthy citizens, while working to ensure public safety.

## MISSOULA VETERANS TREATMENT TRACK,

CO-OCCURRING TREATMENT COURT

KEEPING FAITH WITH VETERANS



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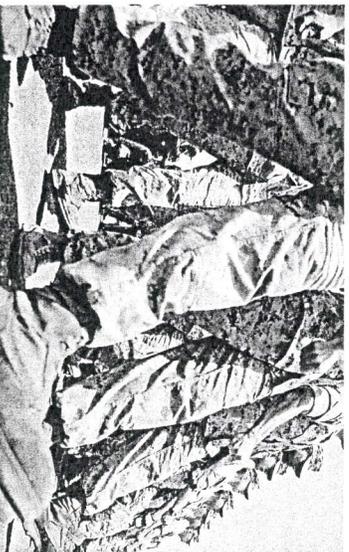
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# What Is the Veterans Treatment Track ?

The Veterans Treatment Track was developed in 2011 as part of the Co-Occurring Treatment Court program to improve the response of the Missoula County justice system to Veterans whose criminal actions appear to stem from the stresses of war. The program accepts Veterans with mental health challenges and co-occurring substance abuse disorders, charged with or convicted of any misdemeanor or non-registrable felony. Participants are required to comply with appropriate community programs for mental health and substance abuse treatment. Participant compliance is reviewed and monitored weekly by the court team. The team and court staff work with the VA, Veterans groups and community treatment providers to support the participant's recovery and to reduce his or her future involvement in the criminal justice system.



## Guidelines for Admission

### 1) The Referral:

A prospective participant may be referred by any person, including an attorney, judge, treatment provider, family member, detention center staff or other concerned person.

### 2) Defense Attorney:

Before Court staff discuss the program with a prospective participant, a defense attorney must agree that staff may speak with him or her to determine eligibility for the program.



### 3) Screening and Intake:

The Court staff meets with the prospective participant, in the detention center if necessary, to: (a) assess willingness to participate in the program; (b) perform eligibility screening; and (c) complete all necessary paperwork, such as releases of information to obtain records. If eligibility criteria are confirmed, court staff obtain pertinent records and develop a recommendation for the court team.

### 4) Veterans Treatment Track Team:

The Team is composed of: the court coordinator, case manager, a prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, community supervision officer, treatment providers, representatives of Montana VA and the Missoula Vet Center, the participant and the judge.

### 5) Acceptance or Denial in Program:

After screening and upon recommendation by Court staff, the Court team discusses the case at its weekly meeting and decides whether or not the prospective participant will be accepted into the program.

### 6) Acceptance:

The participant is notified of acceptance, told to review and sign the participant agreement with an attorney and scheduled to appear in Court. At the first appearance, the Judge welcomes the participant into the Veterans Treatment Track Program and outlines the obligations for the Veteran's next court appearance.

